

Dulles No Help To Spies

The Craft Of Intelligence, by Allen Dulles.
Harper and Row. 277 pages. \$4.95
The New York Herald Tribune

Any Soviet agents who have been lurking around bookstores waiting for the appearance of this work by the former head of the CIA have been wasting their time. Bad lurk, comrades. You'd do better to wait for the next installment of "Congressional hearings on the defense budget," which has the additional merit of being free.

At one point in this book, Dulles refers to Daniel Defoe, who, besides being the chronicler of "Robinson Crusoe" was a successful spy and the first chief of an organized British intelligence system.

There is nothing about spying in Defoe's books: "Having the inside view, he felt that for security reasons he could not give a true and full story of espionage as it was really practiced in his day."

Dulles has written a book about espionage but, with the exception of a few anecdotes of personal adventure during World War II, it is a book that could as well have been written by an outsider.

There are chapters tracing the history of espionage and the evolution of "intelligence" in American history (though "evolution" is a rather odd description: General Washington had a well-functioning intelligence system, but from the Revolution to World War I the record is almost blank, and the highly useful "Black Chamber" of code-breakers which emerged during World War I was shut down by Secretary of State Stimson in 1929 because "gentlemen do not read each other's mail.")

The greater part of the book deals with the discipline and techniques of intelligence-work — its tradecraft. "What will not be disclosed here," Dulles writes, "is where and how and when the tradecraft has been or will be employed in particular operations unless this has already been disclosed elsewhere."

There's a lot of interesting material, even though much of it is fairly familiar — the work of collecting and analyzing information, the ruses of counterintelligence, the ways in which agents are hired, the dangers and mishaps that have occurred, the operational methods of the "enemy."



Allen Dulles